

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for making a wood slat, the method comprising:

providing a first bulk section of wood having joining marks that appear in a face plane, the joining marks resulting from rejoining shorter blocks of wood to form the bulk section;

cutting the first bulk section along first parallel planes in a successive first order to form a plurality of first slats each having a face plane;

joining the face planes of the first slats in an order different than the first order to create a new bulk section in the form of a laminate; and

cutting the new bulk section along second parallel planes to form the wood slat, the second parallel planes being generally transverse to the first parallel planes such that the joining marks are substantially ~~hidden~~ unnoticeable in the wood slat.

Claims 8-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of ~~making a wood slat having hidden joining marks~~ of claim 7, wherein the first bulk section is in the form of a rectangular block.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of ~~making a wood slat having hidden joining marks of~~ claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of ~~wood~~ first slats has a thin rectangular shape.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A wood slat prepared by a process comprising:
providing a bulk section of wood having joining marks that appear in a face plane, the joining marks resulting from rejoining shorter blocks of wood to form the bulk section;
cutting successive sections of the bulk section of wood, the sections defining first parallel planes and forming a plurality of individual wood pieces;
rejoining the plurality of individual wood pieces in a different order to form a new bulk section; and
cutting the new bulk section along second parallel planes, the second parallel planes being transverse to the first parallel planes so that the wood slat has a desirable veneer appearance that the joining marks are substantially ~~hidden~~ unnoticeable in the wood slat.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): The wood slat prepared by the process of claim 13, wherein said bulk section is in the form of a rectangular block.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The wood slat prepared by the process of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of wood pieces has a thin rectangular shape.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The wood slat prepared by the process of claim 13, wherein the second cutting step provides the wood slat with a thin rectangular shape.

Claims 18-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein the second parallel planes are generally perpendicular to the first parallel planes.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The wood slat of claim 17, wherein the second parallel planes are generally perpendicular to the first parallel planes.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A finished wood slat, comprising:
multiple first manufactured wood slats formed from cutting joined blocks of wood with zig-zag joining points between the blocks, each first manufactured wood slat having a first face plane and at least one zig-zag joining line exposed on the first face plane,

the multiple first manufactured wood slats being re-ordered and laminated together and sliced along a direction perpendicular to the first face planes of the first manufactured wood slats to produce second manufactured wood slats each having a second face plane free of any exposed zig-zag joining lines, ~~the second manufactured wood slats being the finished wood slat.~~

Claim 23 (currently amended): A finished wood slat-having:

a long thin rectangular shaped ~~final~~ face, wherein

the ~~final~~ face being defined by periphery edges of a plurality of first manufactured slats
each having a face plane containing joining marks in an undesirable pattern, and wherein

the face planes being generally transverse to the periphery edges of the first manufactured
slats so that the undesirable patterns of the joining marks are not ~~exposed~~ noticeable in the ~~final~~
face of the finished wood slat.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The finished wood slat of claim ~~23~~²¹, wherein the
undesirable pattern of the joining marks is a zig-zag pattern.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The finished wood slat of claim 21, wherein the
long thin rectangular shape is a laminate.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The finished wood slat of claim 25, wherein the
laminate is formed with at least one adhesion plane joining the face planes of an adjacent pair of
the first manufactured slats.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The finished wood slat of claim 23, wherein the
plurality of first manufactured slats are selectively cut to preferred dimensions, and wherein the
finished wood slat is selectively cut to preferred dimensions.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The finished wood slat of claim 23, wherein the face planes are perpendicular to the periphery edges of the first manufactured slats.